

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE
REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN HALL – 201 DELAWARE STREET – NEW CASTLE
TUESDAY – JANUARY 9, 2001 – 7:00 PM**

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Councilman DiAngelo
Councilman Marinelli
President Blest

Councilman Davis
Councilman Reese

Also, present Mayor Houben, Mr. Robert Martin, City Administrator, Chief Kevin McDerby, and Lt. Patrick Cannon, New Castle Police Department, Mrs. Jean Williamson, Council Secretary, Mr. Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official and attached list of audience.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Martin read the following reports:

Police Department Report	-	December 2000
Building Official's Report	-	December 2000
Public Works Report	-	December 2000
Finance and Human Resource Report	-	December 2000

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. Janet Carlin, City Treasurer read the treasurer's report for the month ending December 2000.

Mr. Reese made a motion that all committee reports and the treasurer's report be accepted as read. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY DATE:

President Blest asked if council had read the minutes and if there were any questions or changes. Mr. DiAngelo made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Mayor Houben stated he had written a letter congratulating some officials who were reelected. He received a letter from Governor Ruth Ann Minner thanking him for his words of encouragement.
2. Mayor Houben read a letter from the former Secretary of Department of Transportation, Anne Canby responding to his letter regarding the need for sidewalks on Washington Street in New Castle.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

There was no business from the floor concerning agenda items at this time

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Houben had no other business to discuss at this time.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

President Blest had no business to discuss at this time.

BUSINESS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR:

Mr. Martin read several items of interest to the audience at this time.

PRESENTATION:

Mrs. Teel Petty gave a presentation regarding the progress of the rehabilitation of the Buttonwood School.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Resolution No. 2000-19 approving the recommendation of the Committee to annex Delaware Credit Union League, S. E. corner of Rt. 273. Mr. Reese read the resolution in its entirety. Mr. Marinelli made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Mr. Reese seconded the motion. President Blest asked for a roll call. Mr. Reese yes, Mr. Marinelli yes, Mr. Davis yes, Mr. DiAngelo yes and President Blest abstained. Motion passed.

(UNFINISHED BUSINESS CON'T)

2. **1st and 2nd reading of Ordinance #396 amending the code of the City of New Castle by creating Chapter 216 – Lines and Grades.** President Blest read just the first page of Ordinance #396 because of its length.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Presentation by Mr. Okonowicz and Mr. Dixon desiring to obtain permission to have "History and Haunts" tours in New Castle.** Mr. Okonowicz, a professional storyteller and Mr. Dixon a historian asked council for permission to begin their tours in the early spring of 2001. They will also get the permission of the churches in order to use their graveyards for part of their tours. Council asked that they sign a hold harmless agreement with the city and that certain days be blocked due to other events in the city. All of council gave their permission for the tours.
2. **Request from "Hot Dawg Carts, Inc." to operate a hot dog vending cart and to vend Italian water ice on the Wharf near entrance to Battery Park.** President Blest read a request from the owner of Hot Dawg Carts, Inc. Sandra Pitts to obtain a food-vending license for the year 2001. Mr. Marinelli made a motion to accept the request. Mr. Reese seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Trustee requests approval.** President Blest read the Mayor and New Castle requests to the Trustees of the New Castle Commons. Each year the trustees assist the city by their approval of these requests this year totaling \$201,000. Mr. Reese made a motion to approve the trustee requests. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Consideration of FY 2000 – 2001 operating budget transfers.** Mr. Davis motioned for this agenda item to be tabled, as he does not have all information that is needed.
5. **Appointment of Attorney for Municipal Complex.** Mayor Houben recommended that the Mayor and Council retain Mr. Michael Parkowski of the law firm Parkowski and Guerke to represent the city in the acquisition and development of the former Deemer Steel Property. Mayor Houben stated Mr. Parkowski is the foremost environmental attorney in the Mid-Atlantic States. Mr. Davis made a motion retain Mr. Parkowski to represent the city in the acquisition and development of the former Deemer Steel Property. Mr. Reese seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Consideration of Resolution No. 2001-01 approving a Minor Subdivision for property located at #15 Hewlett Avenue.** President Blest read in its entirety Resolution No. 2001-01. Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
7. **Resolution No. 2001-02 honoring Tom and Mary Jo O'Donald.** President Blest read Resolution No. 2001-02 honoring the O'Donald's who recently closed the doors to the variety store they operated for over 6 years. President Blest also stated a reception in their honor would be held at the Arsenal on the Green on January 17, 2001 at 5:30 P.M. Mr. Marinelli made a motion to accept the resolution as read. Mr. Reese seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
8. **Acceptance of Site Engineering proposal for 9th and Washington Street Project.** Mayor Houben stated that Mr. Martin, city administrator, Mr. James Davidson, city engineer and Chief McDerby, Chief of Police reviewed the 9 bids for the geo-technical proposal of the 9th and Washington Street Project. They narrowed the bids down to 3 companies interviewing 2 of the companies (the other one did not respond) and recommended Textra Tech in the amount of \$24,400 and can complete the work within 6 weeks. Mr. Reese made a motion to accept Textra Tech bid. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
9. **Appointment of City Election Committee members and discussion of compensation for services rendered.** President Blest stated when City of New Castle has an election an election board is appointed. Each member serves for a period of 4 years. Some members chose to resign so replacements have to be appointed. Ms. Grace Hayford was appointed to replace Susan Peden and Ms. Paula (Mikki) DiEmidio was appointed to replace Debbie Pullan. The other committee members are Norma Schroeder, Chairperson, Mrs. Beverly Ross, Mr. Jack Gott and Mrs. Jean Swanson. Mr. Reese made a motion that the newly appointed members serve until 2005. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The compensation part will be discussed at a meeting later this month.
10. **Comments from the Floor.**
 1. Dave June said he has one word, volunteerism. If individuals don't want to do the job unless they are compensated they should resign.

(COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR CON'T)

2. Mr. Cobb felt as long as the election committee was being feed that was all they needed.
3. Teel Petty did not like the idea of tours of groups going through the graveyards in the city.
4. John DiMondi asked the mayor and council to keep the citizens apprised of the negotiations on the Deemer Steele property. He felt they should also be informed of the costs involved in the acquisition process.

President Blest then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Reese made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and to enter into executive session. Mr. Marinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive session minutes as dictated by Mr. Robert Martin, city administrator.

The Mayor and Council discussed the possible acquisition of the old Deemer Steel site for a municipal complex.

Approximately 9:45 PM Councilman Reese made a motion to return to open session. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss in open session Councilman Reese made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman DiAngelo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia K. Fuller
City Clerk